Import of rubber

463. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow import of rubber through all Indian ports by removing restrictions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ban on import of plantation commodities

464. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the import of plantation commodities for re-export from the country by multinational companies has adversely affected the indigenous plantation industry especially tea industry in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government would impose a temporary ban on import of plantation commodities for re-export from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) In the case of plantation commodities tea, coffee and rubber, the import of the commodities for re-export has not affected the domestic industry for the reasons given below:

- In the case of tea, M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd., which is also a 100% Export Oriented Unit (EOU), is the only multinational company importing tea into India for the purpose of re-export after making some value addition. No tea imported by the company is sold in the domestic market. Import of tea for re-export has been allowed in order to increase the price